

THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST  
FUND

**HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 14, 1995*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, it is time to measure our progress in protecting the Social Security Fund, specifically the Old Age and Survivors Insurance Fund [OASDI]. This is the fund into which we all pay throughout our working lives and from which we expect to receive benefits when we retire.

In my tenure in the House of Representatives, I have had the opportunity to cast votes to protect the Social Security trust fund several times. Perhaps the most important vote I have cast was in 1990 when I voted to take the Social Security trust funds "off-budget." The purpose of this action to ensure that the Social Security trust funds would no longer be used to mask the true size of the Federal deficit. Instead, the trust fund would have a separate account. The administrative costs of the Social Security Administration were not taken "off-budget."

This action moved us closer toward honest accounting procedures and away from the concept of the "unified budget," a mechanism to place all revenues in one large pot from which the Government can draw. However, it turns out that the language included in the 1990 law was not enough to protect the trust fund.

In 1993, President Clinton undermined the trust fund by proposing a tax on Social Security beneficiaries at a rate of 85 percent of their benefits. The money collected from this tax would not go back into the trust fund, but was instead diverted to other programs in the Federal budget. I strongly opposed this tax. In fact, I went to the Rules Committee and offered an amendment to strip this tax on Social Security from the underlying budget legislation. But, the Rules Committee did not allow my amendment and the 1993 budget containing the tax on Social Security benefits passed into law with my strong objections.

Later in 1994, I had the opportunity to cast a vote in favor of making Social Security an independent agency. This legislation passed the House and Senate and became law. This means the Social Security Administration [SSA] is no longer counted as part of the Department of Health and Human Services. Thus, the budget for Social Security is completely contained in one agency and the administrative costs of the trust fund are clear and set aside with the "off-budget" trust funds. For the first time, there will be a bipartisan governing board that insulates the SSA from political influence and the everyday fiscal policy decisions of the administration in power. In fact, several improvements in the Social Security system as a whole will result from this change. It will now be much easier to monitor and thus, protect the Social Security trust funds. I am proud to have supported this important change in the system that bolsters the security of the trust funds.

This year, I cast a vote to support the balanced budget amendment [BBA]. This, too, was a vote to protect the security of the Social Security trust funds. During consideration of the BBA I voted for an amendment offered by my friend from Illinois, Representative FLANA-

GAN, to express the sense of the House of Representatives that Social Security would not be used to balance the Federal budget. This amendment passed and will provide crucial direction to the House in future years as we seek to balance the budget.

However, if Social Security had been statutorily exempt from cuts, I believe there are many who would try to expand Social Security to include benefits for nearly every group of Americans imaginable. Many of the benefits paid out by the Social Security Administration do not go to retirees, but rather drug addicts, children with learning disabilities and the like. I am fearful that this would not only continue, but expand under a system where only Social Security had an "exempted" status.

I have explained several key votes I have taken to protect the Social Security trust funds in the past several years. I do this because the people in the 14th district of Illinois want to know that their retirement benefits are safe.

In fact, a group that believes strongly, as I do, that these benefits be removed from the national budget and set aside for the intended use of retirees has recently contacted me. I have presented this history of my position to indicate that I am in full agreement. Congress should not use Social Security funds to balance the budget or mask the budget deficit, but rather to fund the earned benefits of our country's senior citizens.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF  
FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT'S DEATH

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 14, 1995*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the month of April, the Presidential library founded by Franklin Delano Roosevelt will inaugurate a series of exhibits, events, films, and a play to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of America's 32d President. I would like to submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article by a constituent of mine, Edmund Walsh.

FDR'S LEGACY CONTINUES AT HYDE PARK  
LIBRARY

(By Edmund A. Walsh)

Starting April 1, 1995, the presidential library founded by Franklin Delano Roosevelt will inaugurate a series of exhibits, events, films, and a play to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of America's 32nd president. The commemorative activities will start with an exhibit entitled "1945—The Year That Changed Your World." This program will cover FDR's inauguration for an unprecedented fourth term, with Harry S. Truman, former senator from Missouri, sworn in as his vice president. The exhibit will profile the Yalta Conference, where Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin met to lay plans for the post-WWII world. The April program continues with displays showing the transition from "The New Deal to the Fair Deal" when a stunned Truman becomes president and moves to continue FDR's steps towards peace.

The "1945" presentation continues with the funeral of FDR and a description of "The Unfinished Legacy of the New Deal," and "The Birth of the United Nations." (Roosevelt passed away on April 12, 1945 in Warm Springs, Georgia; just two weeks before he was to host the San Francisco meeting that

saw the birth of the United Nations). "VE Day," Victory in Europe will be honored. The exhibit will also cover "The Atomic Bomb" and "The End of World War II." The April program concludes with a presentation of the president's legacy of leadership.

A film and discussion series follows the "1945" exhibit with programs covering the Yalta conference in May and the atomic bomb in June. President Truman is the subject of the July segment.

A public debate on the legacy of FDR will be presented by teams from Marist College and United States Military Academy at West Point in late April. This will interest those interested in the FDR years, as well those closely following the continuing discussions in Congress concerning entitlement programs. Chief among those programs is the Social Security Act, a major betterment of the early Roosevelt administration.

The Memorial Day weekend will feature a bivouac and salute to FDR by the Duffel Bag group of Carmel, New York. This group, founded ten years ago, is composed of 300 men, women, and some children, who reenact WWII battles, march in parades, and stage exhibitions of their equipment and vehicles.

Duffel Bag was conceived and promoted by Brian Benedict, a Carmel dealer in military surplus goods. Recently, Benedict said, the group reenacted the Battle of the Bulge in Indian Gap, Pennsylvania. They performed at half-time of the Army-Navy game in 1993 and are scheduled to appear again in this year's game.

At Hyde Park, Benedict went on, the Duffel Bag associates will create an attempt by enemy commandoes to kidnap President Roosevelt. The "army's" assignment will be to deny the attempt. Benedict promised a skirmish between the forces, complete with simulated gunfire. Kids of all ages, he said, are welcome to inspect their equipment which will include jeeps, trucks, and possibly half-tracks and light armor.

August will see the presentation of the nationally-known "Sunrise at Campobello" by the Rhinebeck Theatre Group. This drama tells the story of the summer of 1921 when FDR contracted polio. Theatre goers may remember the original Broadway presentation with Ralph Bellamy in the title role.

Since the wartime president always considered himself first and foremost a farmer, the FDR Library in conjunction with the Dutchess County Cooperative Extension, will present its first Agricultural Heritage Day in September. Farm groups, a farmer's market and various environmental groups will participate.

Other activities are planned for Warm Springs, the New York Museum of Television and Radio, and at Roosevelt University in Chicago. For more information on the plans at Hyde Park or other locations, call 800-FDR-Visit or 800-337-8474.

INSIDE SALES COMPENSATION

**HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 14, 1995*

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my colleague, Mr. PETRI, in the introduction of legislation to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 [FLSA] to make uniform the application of the overtime exemption for inside sales personnel. This legislation is necessary to repair the inequity that presently exists between retail and wholesale establishments.